

No. 18,397.

GHOULS TAKE BODY FROM SCOTT TOMB

Family Mausoleum of Late Millionaire Congressman at Erie Desecrated.

SISTER-IN-LAW'S CASKET HAULED OFF IN WAGON

Coffins of Others Are Pried Loose From Sealed Walls.

RANSOM PROBABLE MOTIVE

Stolen Remains Thought to Be Hidden in City—Tracks of Six Men Found in the Snow.

ERIE, Pa., February 9.—Body snatchers who stole the country more than a quarter of a century ago, when the body of A. T. Stewart, New York's millionaire merchant, was stolen, has stirred this section of Pennsylvania in indignation at its daring as nothing has since the sensational kidnapping which occurred in this vicinity a few years ago. The mausoleum of one of the most prominent families of this section of the state was desecrated some time between Monday and yesterday afternoon. A body is missing from the vault of the family of the late representative and railroad magnate, William L. Scott. The police of neighboring cities and communities within 100 miles have been notified of the crime.

The discovery was made by two women walking through the Erie cemetery. The family was immediately notified, and a watch was placed in the cemetery at midnight after all assurances were made that the missing body was not in the vicinity. Details of Erie police kept watch at the tomb during the night to greet the body snatchers should they return. The only disturbance they met was from newspaper men early this morning, who were ordered from the cemetery at the point of revolvers.

Body of Sister-in-Law.

While the police have been informed of the grave robbing, no name is attached to the missing body by them. The first information to the public came from the family, but again no name is given. It is known, however, that the body taken by the ghouls is that of Mrs. McCollum, a sister-in-law of the late Mr. Scott. The police believe the body is being held for ransom, and that the vandals also intended to carry away the bodies of the millionaire and his wife.

When the women in the cemetery found broken chains and open doors in the mausoleum they notified Mrs. Charles H. Strong, who is a daughter of Mr. Scott, and the wife of Charles H. Strong, president of the Erie and Pittsburgh railroad, the Erie County Electric Light Company and the owner of the Erie Dispatch, the morning newspaper of this section. Mrs. Strong notified the police and all further information was deemed unnecessary.

As soon as the police were notified they reached the Strong home. Mrs. Thora Strong Ronalds, a granddaughter of William L. Scott, started for the cemetery with her father, Charles H. Strong.

Metal Casket Carried Away.

Investigation showed that the casket containing the body of Mrs. McCollum had been carried away. The caskets are sealed in a wall, and a chisel had been used in breaking the seals before the metal box could be carried away. The casket was found in the lower tier at the north side of the mausoleum, and directly opposite it on the second tier is the casket containing the body of Mrs. Scott, the wife of the millionaire who built the mausoleum.

The wall here also was broken and when it was examined it was found that this casket was half way out to all appearances was ready to be carried away. The remains of the millionaire were lying next to those of his wife, and his casket was not disturbed. A number of palms stored in the mausoleum had been broken down and two other caskets were broken open and the bodies were taken out of them.

Wagon Tracks in Snow.

That the casket and body was carried away in a wagon is indicated by tracks in the snow about the mausoleum. The footprints of four and in some instances six men are discernible about a point where the end of a wagon might be placed. The wagon tracks lead to one of the gates of the cemetery and these have been followed into the street until lost in the beaten track of travel.

The local police have notified the police and morgue officials of cities within several hundred miles of this place, but still maintain that the body is held here for ransom. Every railroad and freight station is picketed and every avenue of outlet is guarded.

Italian Cemetery Near the Cemetery has become an object of scrutiny by the police and every dwelling is being searched for signs of a garret at the command of Chief Wagner.

Bronze Doors Pried Off.

When daylight broke ropes were stretched around the bronze doors in check hundreds of curious sightseers. One of the big bronze doors on the mausoleum had been pried from its hinges and the other had been badly battered. Practically every casket in the vault had been tampered with, some of them having been opened.

Just when the vault had been broken into had been determined. Statements of the family that it was intact three or four days ago are the only way the detectives working on the case have the day the time. No clue to the ghouls or the missing body has yet been found.

Mrs. McCollum, whose body is missing, died in Philadelphia nearly twenty years ago. The body was brought here and placed in the Scott vault, which is located about the middle of the cemetery and is hidden from view by a tree.

On account of the cold weather recently a few persons have visited the cemetery and the robbery has been noted by the little fear of being molested.

May Be Black Hand Plot.

The idea that the body of Mrs. McCollum is being held for ransom by design-

ing persons is substantiated by an incident of two years ago, when the Strong family was stormed with Black Hand letters demanding \$10,000, with the alternative of having their summer home west of this city blown to atoms. The persons were subsequently apprehended and are now in the western penitentiary serving out sentences following conviction in the courts.

Mrs. McCollum was a member of a prominent family of Philadelphia and her maiden name was Tracy.

Friend of Grover Cleveland.

William L. Scott, who built the mausoleum over twenty years ago, was a personal friend of the late ex-President Cleveland and was one of the leaders of the democracy in the House of Representatives when Cleveland was serving his first term as President of the United States. Grover Cleveland was one of the publishers at his funeral, his remains being the first to be interred in the vault. He was one of the most prominent railroad magnates of his time and was known by reputation from coast to coast.

DAUGHTER IS INFORMED.

Mrs. Richard Townsend of This City Receives Word From Erie.

The news contained in the above dispatch was corroborated by Washington friends of the family of the late millionaire railroad man, William L. Scott. His daughter, Mrs. Richard Townsend, who is at her Massachusetts home, was informed by a long-distance telephone of the breaking into of the family mausoleum, the tampering with several of the caskets there and the removal of the casket which contained the body of her aunt, Mrs. McCollum. Whether or not Mrs. Townsend will leave at once to join her sister, Mrs. Strong, at her old home in Erie, will be determined by the developments of the day.

Save for the matter of ransom, those in the confidence of the family have no other motive to assign for the desecration of the mausoleum. For the first ten years or so after the death of the millionaire it was in charge of a regular guard, night and day. This vigilance was relaxed after a few years, and the visits of a family servant two or three times a week, or perhaps more frequently, was substituted.

EXPRESSMEN AGAIN STRIKE.

Wells Fargo Jersey City Employees Allege Discrimination in Lay-Off.

NEW YORK, February 9.—Jersey City is today in the throes of another express drivers' strike. This time, however, the disaffection is confined to 300 employees of the Wells Fargo Express Company, and there is little indication that it will spread. Discrimination against leaders in the general strike last fall is said by the men to be the grievance.

Two tables of the Wells Fargo company were under police guard today, but no demonstration was made by the strikers. The strikers charge that the men recently suspended during the annual lay-off of employees for the full season were, in every instance, the ring leaders in the trouble last fall. The company denies the alleged discrimination.

WHITE-LAW REID ROBBED.

Second-Story Thief Loots Bedroom, Getting Valuable Jewelry.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., February 9.—White-law Reid, American ambassador to Great Britain, who is spending a vacation at the estate of his late father-in-law, D. M. Mills, near here, was robbed of valuable jewelry for the full season were, in every instance, the ring leaders in the trouble last fall. The company denies the alleged discrimination.

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SHERIFF SHOT DOWN

Was Attempting to Eject John Sweitzer at Cumberland.

BOLDLY IGNORES THREAT

Had Been Warned That Resistance Would Be Made.

ASSAILANT MORTALLY HURT

Wounded Official Sends Word From His Hospital Bed That Sweitzer Be Protected From Mob Violence.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

CUMBERLAND, Md., February 9.—Sheriff Noah Hendley was shot in the breast this morning by John Sweitzer, whom he was trying to eject from the premises 100 North Mechanic street, and Sweitzer was in turn shot by Deputy Sheriff Walter Clay, who was assisting in the ejection. Both are believed to be mortally wounded. Sheriff Hendley is at the Allegany Hospital, while Sweitzer's life is seeping away at the Western Maryland Hospital, the wound being in the right lung, the bullet having entered under the right shoulder.

Sheriff Hendley walked right into death, as it were, Sweitzer had warned the officers that he intended to shoot when the ejection proceedings were begun. The property, a two-story brick structure, was sold three months ago under a judgment of \$2,700 held by the First National Bank to Martin Gehring for \$2,000. Sweitzer refused to surrender, and the sheriff was serving a writ of ejection issued by the court when the shooting occurred.

Advanced to Possible Death.

Deputy Clay had obtained a bunch of keys and a hammer, and with him and Sheriff Hendley was Deputy Sheriff Corfield. The lock refused to respond to the keys, and then Sheriff Hendley and Deputy Clay wielded the hammer, breaking in the door, to be faced by Sweitzer with a drawn revolver.

Hendley did not falter when he faced the revolver, but went right ahead. Sweitzer sent a bullet through the sheriff's breast just above the heart. He fired the second time, the bullet being aimed at Deputy Clay, who was right behind Sheriff Hendley, but it missed. Hendley, however, was not hurt. He tried the second time, the bullet being aimed at Deputy Clay, who was right behind Sheriff Hendley, but it missed. Hendley, however, was not hurt.

Anxious About Assailant.

Sheriff Hendley revived after being taken to the Allegany Hospital. He did not know how badly Sweitzer was shot, and his first request of those about him was that the officers be told not to permit a mob to get him. Several years ago a mob lynched here for shooting Policeman Baker.

A strange succession of calamities has attended the family of Sheriff Hendley, but had retired. His last work having been thought of this until morning, when he was overtaken by death in surroundings that still hide her identity from discovery is the fear of her kinspeople. That she has found shelter and is cared for by her home.

Mrs. Lynch paid a visit to the home of her son, Samuel Conway, at 329 Missouri avenue, Tuesday. The conditions of the streets, covered with snow, slush and ice, impelled her son to induce her to remain with him overnight, instead of attempting to return home at 1045 Kremer street northeast.

She retired to the room assigned to her. In the middle of the night her step was heard in the passage. She was not heard returning to the room. Nothing was thought of this until morning, when her bed was found empty. She was not discovered in the house, although her clothing remained before retiring, and where she had deposited it for the night.

Police Take Up Search.

Her son made inquiry at Mrs. Lynch's home to learn if she had returned. Getting no trace of her there, he made diligent search of the homes of relatives. None had seen her or heard anything concerning her. The police were then notified and took up the quest. Not a clue has been uncovered. All the hospitals and other institutions have been visited. She is in none of these.

NO THOUGHT OF SELLING.

Battleships Iowa and Oregon Not to Be Disposed Of.

SANTIAGO, Chile, February 9.—It is rumored here that the Peruvian government has purchased the American battleships Iowa and Oregon. Following the acquisition by Peru of two submarines and 50,000 rifles, this latest report has caused some anxiety, and at the same time given an impetus to Chile's naval building program.

The battleships Iowa and Oregon were built in 1885.

The former is in reserve and the latter out of commission.

The Navy Department today denied positively the rumor, saying that the battleships Iowa and Oregon are to be sold to Peru. The only manner in which a United States naval vessel can be disposed legally is through condemnation by a naval board. The ship then must be offered at public auction, with guns and ammunition and all warlike equipment first being removed from it.

Neither of the ships is to be condemned. The Oregon has just been put in first-class condition at a cost of \$1,000,000. The Iowa, though not of the latest design, still is regarded as an excellent ship for the purpose of defense. Both of the vessels have already been assigned to duty next summer.

ROOSEVELT DAM OPENING.

Former President and Members of Family to Attend Ceremony.

Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Ethel Roosevelt and Archie Roosevelt will go to Arizona in March to attend the ceremonies incident to the opening of the Salt River irrigation project in that state. The Roosevelt dam, which is part of the project, has been completed and will be formally opened March 18, according to information given out at the reclamation service. The exercises will continue for three days.

The last stone was placed in position in the parapet walls of the dam February 3. From the foundation to the parapet is a distance of 284 feet. It is 1,000 feet long on top and is covered by a twenty-foot roadway. The waters held back by the dam will be used to irrigate more than 200,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Phoenix, Ariz.



WOMAN 76 YEARS OLD STRANGELY VANISHES

Cannot Be Found After Spending the Night at Home of Her Son.

Mrs. Sarah Lynch, seventy-six years old, is missing from her home. That she has been overtaken by death in surroundings that still hide her identity from discovery is the fear of her kinspeople. That she has found shelter and is cared for by her home.

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Former President and Members of Family to Attend Ceremony.

Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Miss Ethel Roosevelt and Archie Roosevelt will go to Arizona in March to attend the ceremonies incident to the opening of the Salt River irrigation project in that state. The Roosevelt dam, which is part of the project, has been completed and will be formally opened March 18, according to information given out at the reclamation service. The exercises will continue for three days.

The last stone was placed in position in the parapet walls of the dam February 3. From the foundation to the parapet is a distance of 284 feet. It is 1,000 feet long on top and is covered by a twenty-foot roadway. The waters held back by the dam will be used to irrigate more than 200,000 acres of land in the vicinity of Phoenix, Ariz.

TWENTIETH JOINT BALLOT IN NEW YORK A DEADLOCK

Only Change in Vote Is Gain of One for Representative Sulzer.

Dix Declines to Talk.

ALBANY, N. Y., February 9.—Representative William Sulzer gained